

**AMENDMENT TO THE SPECIFICATION:**

Please substitute the following paragraph for the same paragraph in the application as provided in the substitute specification filed on November 18, 2003.

Page 27, line 22 through page 28, line 4

More particularly, the inventive concept resides in recognition that a strategy of assigning confidences to different classifiers in a decision fusion architecture can be used to improve the classification accuracy of a decision fusion application. This inventive strategy results in improved classification accuracy as compared to the case where static confidence measures (or weights) for classifiers are used across samples during the experiment or even across the experiments.